

Minutes of the East Fork of the Virgin River Annual Water User's Meeting held in Orderville, Utah on February 15, 1973, at 10:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, for the Division of Water Rights. Mr. Norseth gave a report on the snow and water forecast relative to the State of Utah and indicated that the conditions pointed to a good to excellent water year in Southern Utah.

The meeting was then turned over to the chairman, Sharon Lamb, who conducted the balance of the business. The first order being the appointment of a new chairman for the coming year. L. Dean Anderson nominated Sharon Lamb to be chairman and since there were no other nominations the rules were waived and Mr. Lamb put in by acclamation.

The minutes of the previous meeting held in February 1972 were read and approved (motion by Roland Esplin).

A discussion then ensued concerning the distribution of water to the upper ranches on Long Valley Creek and apparently the use of the water has been made without proper authorization from the water commissioner and the State Engineer and without proper headgates or measuring devices. It was decided at the meeting that the commissioner and Mr. Norseth would examine this problem during the coming irrigation season and take the required action to rectify the situation. Another meeting will be called at a later date if further discussion and clarification is necessary.

Other items discussed involved the distribution and use of water at the Heaton Ranch in Dairy Canyon, the subdivision development and use of water in Lydia's Canyon by Cornell Chamberlain and the proposed changes being considered for the KOA Campground being put in by the Spencer's on Long Valley Creek.

A question was raised by the water users concerning responsibility in reviewing the county newspaper on proposed applications to appropriate or applications for permanent change of point of diversion, place of use or nature of use. It was pointed out by representatives of the Division of Water Rights that it was each individual's responsibility to review the legal notices published in the county newspaper and take whatever action they deemed necessary to protect their rights. It was suggested that each company subscribe to the local paper and make sure that some one person was responsible in that company to review those legal notices involved.

The Financial Report was given by John Bene, Deputy State Engineer, and a motion was made by Cleve Esplin to accept the report as given. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Arel Chamberlain gave his report on the water as distributed over the past irrigation season and raised a question on the Howard Spencer Award in the Decree. This item will be checked out by the Division of Water Rights and clarified at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Henry Carrol to establish the budget and assessment the same as it was for the past year. The motion was seconded and was approved without further discussion.

Nominations were made for the appointment of a water commissioner:

Arel Chamberlain was nominated by Joseph Bolander
Bruce Hoyt was nominated by Lamond Tait

The election was by secret ballot and each vote was weighted by the individual's or company's right in the decree. Mr. Norseth and Mr. Bene counted the votes and Arel Chamberlain was reelected by the majority vote.

The water commissioner was then reminded that it was his responsibility to settle any dispute concerning the distribution of the water and that he should encourage the water users to contact him if there are any problems. If assistance is required he is then authorized to contact the Division of Water Rights. A general discussion was held and the meeting was adjourned.

Those present:

John Bene
Donald C. Norseth
Gerald W. Stoker
Norman H. Day
Sharon Lamb
Leonard H. Foote
Warren C. Foote
Joseph Bolander
Henry Carrol
Arel Chamberlain
L. Dean Anderson
Delwyn Maxwell
Lamond Tait
Cleve Esplin
Garn Esplin
Roland Esplin
Lyle Chamberlain

Deputy State Engineer
Distribution Engineer
Area Engineer
Division of Water Rights
Chairman of Water User's Committee
David C. Foote Diversion
David C. Foote Diversion
Orderville Irrigation Co.
Upper Ranches
Water Commissioner
Glendale Irrigation Co.
Glendale Irrigation Co.
Mt. Carmel Irrigation Co.
Mt. Carmel Irrigation Co.
Mr. Carmel Irrigation Co.
Mt. Carmel Irrigation Co.
Upper Ranch